

I. Remarks

After entry of the amendment, claims 54 and 55 are pending.

Claims 1, 2 and 53 have been cancelled. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in future continuation or divisional applications.

No issues of new matter should arise and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objection

Claims 1, 2 and 53-55 are objected to as containing non-elected subject matter. Claims 54 and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1, 2 and 53 have been cancelled. Claims 54 and 55 are independent claims. In view thereof Applicants respectfully submit that the objection is now moot and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Massie et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,696); claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Del Soldato et al (WO 2001/012584); claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Del Soldato et al (WO 95/30641); claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Benedini et al (WO 2000/051988); claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eek et al (WO 2000/072838).

Claims 1, 2 and 53 have been cancelled. In view thereof the rejection is now moot. Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

An early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to expedited prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Lew

Belinda M. Lew, Ph.D.
Registration No. 53,212

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WILMER HALE LLP
1875 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 663-6029